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Veterans Day ESSAY Contest for inmates.
Raymond C Diaz #37263
ARIZONA STATE PRISON TUCSON

Tucson, AZ 85734

A Forgotten War Hero From World War II
I would like to write about my late uncle Mr. John D. Corella, a longtime Phoenix resident who died in January 2001. My uncle Mr. John D. Corella enlisted in the MARINES on December 4, 1943 in Phoenix, Arizona and was sent to the Recruit Dept in San Diego, California for boot camp training. This information is from his own Military History, written by him 1944-1945. My uncle graduated as a P.F.C. after graduation, he was sent to Camp Elliott for live corps training, there he qualified as a first class machine gunner and later as a sharpshooter with the M-1 rifle at Camp Matthews. After that he was ~~sent~~ sent aboard ship to the South Pacific Area, in September, 1944 they boarded ship headed for combat at Peleliu, my uncle was a machine gunner against Japanese forces on Peleliu. Palau Islands on Sept 19, 1944 according to my uncle while advancing through a swamp my uncles company came under machine gun fire.

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ACROSS THE AREA BEING SWEEPED WITH MACHINE GUN FIRE AND AIDED IN THE EVACUATION OF THE WOUNDED. MY ~~united~~ ~~uncle~~ CONTINUALLY EXPOSED HIMSELF TO INTENSE ENEMY ARTILLERY. MORTAR AND MACHINE-GUN FIRE, AND THEN REJOINED HIS COMPANY IN THE ASSAULT AND SEIZURE OF HILL 154. THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, THE ENEMY ATTACKED THE MARINES FROM THREE SIDES, AND MY UNCLE CONTINUED FIGHTING, OFTEN RESORTING TO HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT AND THROWING ROCKS INTEB MITTAZI WITH GRENADES AS THE AMMUNITION SUPPLY DAWND. THE NEXT MORNING, THE COMPANY WAS ORDERED TO WITHDRAW FROM HILL 154, AND ALTHOUGH MY UNCLE WAS WOUNDED, HE HELPED EVALUATE OTHER INJURED MARINES, AFTER OVER 48 YEARS OF BEING A FORGOTTEN WAR HERO IN WORLD WAR II. MY UNCLE FAMILY RECEIVED NOTICE THAT MY UNCLE MR JOHN O CORELLA WOULD BE RECOGNIZED FOR HIS VALOR, MY UNCLE WHO WITH NO REGARD FOR HIS OWN LIFE, ASSISTED 22 FALLEN MARINES TO SAFETY DURING ACTION AGAINST THE ENEMY FORCES IN SEPTEMBER 1944 AT PELELIU, PALAU ISLAND, IN THE PACIFIC. WAS AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR WITH A COMBAT V FOR VALOR. I'M VERY PROUD OF MY UNCLE MR JOHN O ~~CORELLA~~ CORELLA, I ONLY WISH THAT HE WOULD OF LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO RECEIVE HIS ~~BRONZE~~ BRONZE STAR. I.H.I. HE WAS ALIVE Sept 7 in

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Heaven with a big smile, and I'm sure
he says the following how many more heroes
from all the wars, are forgotten, a medal
doesn't make a hero, the person receiving the
medal makes the ~~is~~ hero. I'm very proud
of my late Uncle Mr John Olivas Corella, and
I'm very proud to be a part of the Corella
Family and a big part of the United States
Marine Family. I'm 52 years old and I
wasn't alive during the time ~~the~~ my uncle
put his life on the line for all Americans
to have the freedom we have today, Thank
you Tio. This means uncle in Spanish, for being
so brave, I will never forget what you
and all the marines did ~~did~~ in Sept 19, 1944
for all our freedom as Americans. God Bless
all our Soldiers, male and females.

Raymond Corella Oig #37263